

The Morning Astorian.

VOL. L.

ASTORIA, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1900

NO. 191

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NO NEWS FROM SEAT OF WAR

**Decisive Blow Has Not Been
Struck on Either Side.**

ANOTHER PEACE PARTY

**But National Emotion Will Not
Tolerate Any Backing Down
From the War.**

LONDON, Jan. 17, 4 a. m.—Even rumors are no longer telegraphed from Natal. The conclusion deduced from this silence by military experts generally is that no decisive blow has been struck either way, as in such event there would be no necessity for silence.

A South Africa conciliation committee, quickly formed to represent the peace minority, announces itself to the country today and asks for support. Among the members are Lord and Lady Colclough, Herbert Spencer, Stephen Gladstone, the Countess of Carlisle and other notable persons.

This movement should be distinguished from the "stop the war" group of extremists, of which William T. Stead is the most active member. Its program, summarized, is to wait until a proper opportunity arises for some peaceable settlement. Meantime it will gather and distribute correct information and sound views. Its manifesto affirms that "as the war was begun amid misunderstandings on both sides, a pacific settlement is possible."

There is no indication that such an arrangement would be tolerated by any considerable portion of the public. The national emotion is now in a state of disquietude over the reverses of the British arms; the dissatisfaction with the conduct of the military business is intense and there is almost a universal determination to see the thing through.

The war office has issued orders for information of five new batteries. Seventeen more militia battalions will be embodied in the course of a fortnight. All the regulars are now out of the country except fourteen infantry battalions and eleven cavalry battalions.

The war office has placed an order for 32,000,000 cartridges in cases.

The Voermany committee announces that it has accepted 5,000 out of the 10,000 which it wishes to raise and still has 20,000 applicants to be examined.

LONDON, Jan. 17.—The Times publishes the following from Pietermaritzburg, dated Tuesday:

"Very heavy artillery firing was heard yesterday in the direction of Springfield."

LONDON, Jan. 17.—The Exchange Telegraph Company has received the following dispatch, dated January 16, from Pietermaritzburg:

"There is no more news from the front, but heavy firing was heard today in the direction of Pieter. It is probable that General Buller is engaging the enemy. The rumor is current here that a portion of the British force is near Ladysmith."

LONDON, Jan. 17.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Pietermaritzburg, dated Tuesday, says: "There was very heavy firing to the north yesterday."

"I believe the Boers are contesting General Buller's passage of the Tugela. The howitzers are evidently busy, as the firing is described as the heaviest yet heard in Natal."

UNCERTAINTY PREVAILS.

Belief is Current That Buller's Movements are Having Decisive Effect.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—The London correspondent of the Herald, discussing the war situation, says:

Complete uncertainty prevails here as to what is taking place in Natal—an uncertainty permeated by apprehension. The situation is likened to

that which existed in the northern states after the battle of Bull Run—there is the same dearth of news, the same dread that worse may yet befall and the same stern determination that new disasters, should one come, must have a morrow.

Amid the multitudinous theories set forth by the critics there is one to which attention may be called at the outset. It is, to say the least, as good a guess as any of the other vacillations that are being made in every quarter and it comes from a man who has had long and close experience of the Boers and their character.

This gentleman's suggestion is that the mystery that seems to envelop the Boer's movements may be due to the fact that they are quietly retiring from the Tugela and other advanced positions toward the Drakensburg passes, leaving small bodies behind them to mask their withdrawal.

He cites the reported movements of commandos with guns from the neighborhood of Ladysmith and the confused reports as to the abandonment of the Colenso trenches in support of his theory. In the Drakensburg range the passes are naturally so strong, and have besides been so well fortified that the burghers may well look upon them as the ancient look-out upon Thermopylae.

Though the withdrawal is kept secret the small bodies are left to mask the general movement, unhampered with guns or stores would, according to this gentleman, have a good chance of making their way to a place of safety when the British advance made their retreat necessary.

The reports that Colenso and Groblers Kloof had been abandoned by the Boers seem to be open to doubt, as one correspondent telegraphs that the Boers are still in Colenso, while another quotes statements that the Boers have mounted another gun at Groblers Kloof.

The censor is evidently determined that nothing shall come through from Buller's army until his movement has been completed, but although there is much that is dubious and uncertain about the exact situation in Natal the feeling is growing that General Buller's turning movements are having a real and possibly a decisive effect.

The facts that seem well assured, are verified, but such as they are, all point in the same direction. Buller has not been heard from since his arrival at Potgieter's drift with the enemy four and a half miles in front of him. It is said that General Warren has crossed the Tugela, at what point is not mentioned, and that some of the British cavalry are on the north side of the river.

The apparent ease with which Buller made his way westward and crossed the little Tugela leads to the natural inference that Springfield was not held by that contingent of Boers with guns which was reported several days ago to be there. And if both on their extreme right at Springfield and on their extreme left at Kiangwand and Inhlwan mountains, the Boers were discovered to have vacated their strong positions, it follows that their line, because of its extension over 20 miles, was too weak and that prudent dictation concentration, probably near Ondirbrook Spruit, between Ladysmith and Colenso.

Simultaneously menaced on the east and west they must do one of two things, collect their forces behind by strong intrenchments, when they must be dislodged by assault before Ladysmith can be relieved, or else Joubert is retreating from Colenso and the east and will fall upon Buller's column with his whole strength, hoping to crush him before assistance can arrive from Warren.

This second alternative seems much more plausible, for it accounts for the rapid removal of Boer commandos from the immediate neighborhood of the river. A good road runs north-west from Bulwer bridge toward Roo-depoort and Dewdrop past Onderbrook Spruit. If the Boers availed themselves of this route they would intercept Buller on the march from Potgieter's drift northward and compel him to accept battle.

If these suppositions are even approximately correct, there must be some heavy fighting going on north-west of Colenso and close to Dewdrop of which we may receive news at any moment.

From Ladysmith there is another considerable list of deaths by disease, showing that the garrison is suffering under the strain of the siege. To what extent White's command will be able to co-operate with the relief column is uncertain. The men must be exhausted and the horses out of condition. They cannot be good for much until they have some weeks of rest. Thus their nominal strength of 3500 men and 36 guns does not represent their true fighting force.

KENTUCKY HAS A DANDY TIME

**Three "Prominent" Citizens Dead
and Another Will Die.**

THE COLONELS DISAGREE

**More Heroes Added to the State's Roll
of Fame and a Sensation for Niggers and Women to Talk.**

FRANKFORT, Ky., Jan. 16.—A shocking tragedy in which the lives of three prominent men were sacrificed, and that of a fourth hangs by a slender thread, while two others miraculously escaped with painful injuries, occurred here at 1 o'clock today.

The principals in the tragedy were ex-Congressman David C. Colson, of Middlesboro, and Lieutenant Ethelbert Scott, of Somerset. Lieutenant Scott was shot six times by Colson and almost instantly killed. Luther W. Demarre, assistant postmaster at Shelbyville, an innocent bystander, was shot three times and died instantly. Charles Julian, another bystander, was shot and died half an hour later. Captain B. B. Golden, of Barbourville, commonwealth's attorney of the Twenty-seventh judicial district, was shot in the back and is not expected to survive the night. Colonel Colson himself was shot twice in the arm. Harry McEwing, of Louisville, was shot in the foot, and W. O. Ridpath, of Chicago, sustained a broken leg by the lifeless form of Scott falling against him as it rolled down the stairway.

The tragedy is one of the most sensational in the history of the state of "dark and bloody ground."

The killing occurred in the lobby of the Capitol Hotel, the principal headquarters of the state capital, the room being well filled at the time with politicians and others, who are here attending the contests for state officers before the legislature.

Colonel Colson is in jail tonight, charged with murder, but he claims self defense.

There are many conflicting stories as to how the fight began. Colonel Colson and a party of friends, among whom was De Marree, were sitting in the lobby engaged in conversation as Scott and Captain Golden came up the stairs from the bar-room. Walking in the direction of Colson, the latter, it is said, half rising from his chair, fired at Scott, who instantly returned the fire. The shooting then became general and bystanders are at variance as to the number engaged in it. De Marree was standing slightly in front of Colson and young Scott is said to have crunched behind him to ward off the bullets from Colson's revolver. In an instant De Marree fell dead, pierced by three bullets.

Captain Golden, who accompanied Scott, reeled to one side, falling into the arms of ex-Governor James E. MacCreary, exclaiming "I am shot."

The smoke in the lobby of the antagonists became dense, but Colson continued to press Scott, who retreated backward, shooting as he moved.

Colson emptied all the chambers of a .32-calibre revolver and quickly brought a .44 into action. Scott, by this time, had been shot several times, and as he staggered back and fell down the stairway, Colson, who was within a few feet of him, continued to fire until the form of Scott rolled over and showed that life was extinct.

After the killing, Colonel Colson ran out of the hotel to the residence of Chief of Police Williams, where he surrendered. As he entered the house he gasped: "I am sorry he would not let me alone. There were three of them shooting at me."

Meantime the wildest excitement prevailed in the hotel lobby. Men fell over each other in their frantic efforts to get to places of safety; women fainted, and it was several minutes before the awful scope of the tragedy was fully known.

Captain Golden made the statement that Colson was the aggressor.

Colonel Colson has long been a prominent figure in Kentucky politics. He served two terms in congress and declined renomination at the hands of the republican party of the Eleventh district, in 1898, in order to accept the colonelcy of the Kentucky Fourth regiment in the Spanish war. Scott was lieutenant and Golden was captain of a company in Colson's regiment and the trouble which led to the tragedy of today began then. A feud sprang up between Colson and Scott while the troops were in camp at Anniston, Ala., and in this, it is said by Colson's friends, Captain Golden was a warm partisan of Scott. The trouble between them at that time culminated in a meeting between them in a restaurant, which resulted in Colson being shot by Scott.

The regiment was shortly afterward mustered out of service as the result of the feud between the officers and the serious charges and counter-charges which they had made at Washington against each other as officers. Since then the parties had not met until today. It has generally been believed that blood would be spilled should they meet, as both were understood to be looking for each other.

BLACKBURN TWICE ELECTED.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Jan. 16.—The election of J. S. C. Blackburn as senator was duplicated this afternoon in both houses, this action being taken on account of a question among the lawyers as to whether the election of last Tuesday was legal. The proceedings and vote were practically the same as those of the former ballot.

ANOTHER ROAD ABSORBED.

Important Acquisition of Huntington Reported.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—It was reported in Wall street that the Galveston, Houston & Northern will shortly become Huntington property, connecting the Southern Pacific with Galveston. At the offices of the Southern Pacific here last night it was said nothing was known of the matter nor had there been any inspection of the Galveston line on Friday, as had been stated.

TO SUCCEED BEDLOE.

Journalist McWade New Consul at Canton.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The president has sent to the senate the name of Robert M. McWade of Pennsylvania, to be consul of the United States at Canton, to succeed Edwin S. Bedloe. This nomination closes the incident in Dr. Bedloe's case. McWade is a well-known newspaper man.

MANY MARINE DISASTERS

Magdalene Crashes Into the Margretha at Portland.

SCHOONER AMITA GOES DOWN

**Entire Crew Lost—Fishing Sloop
Reported Lost off Whidby Island
—Other Marines Casualties.**

PORTLAND, Jan. 16.—The German bark Magdalene, heavily laden with wheat, while in tow of the steamer Haasalo, today was carried by the current into the German bark Margretha, which was lying at Columbia dock No. 1. The bow of the Magdalene cut through her bulwarks and plates from the top of the rail down below the main deck. The damage to the Margretha is estimated to be about \$10,000. The Magdalene was slightly damaged.

SCHOONER ANITA GOES DOWN.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., Jan. 16.—A report was brought to this city today by a Mexican, who arrived overland from Ensenada, that the gasoline schooner Anita had blown up in Magdalene bay and that six persons, all on board, had perished. She was in command of Captain Funck, with Charles Anderson as mate, Wm. Forrest as engineer, besides three sailors.

SLOOP'S CREW DROWNED.

SEATTLE, Jan. 16.—The fishing steamer Grayling, Captain Sullivan, reports the probable drowning of three men, composing the crew of the Ruby Ann, a small sloop, which was found off Whidby Island. The sloop with all sails set, had capsized.

ALL HONOR THE ENGLISH.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—Wm. A. English, son of the former democratic vice-president candidate from Indiana, and captain of volunteers in the war with Spain, has returned to the treasury a check for \$1172, sent him for his services, with the statement that he would not accept pay for service to his country in time of danger. It is the only case of its kind in the Spanish war.

SPANISH PRISONERS HOME.

BARCELONA, Jan. 16.—The Spanish trans-Atlantic steamer Leo XIII has arrived here from the Philippines with former Spanish prisoners and their families. A majority of them are in a lamentable plight.

Suggestions to Astorians

FOR BOYS.

This great store—large, airy and elegant—abounds with many Novelties in Boys' and Young Men's Clothes. There is not a style in any article of Man's wear that is not shown here in miniature for Boys.

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